(b) the number of colleges in which the posts of Principals and Professors are lying vacant and the number of colleges in which proper facilities like library etc. are not available;

(c) the total number of colleges to, which the grant is being provided by the University' Grants Commission and the number of colleges to which the grant is not being provided;

(d) the reasons for not providing the grant to these colleges by the UGC; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to improve the standard of such colleges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Training to untrained teachers

†636. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3366 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th May, 2007 and state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to impart training to untrained teachers;

(b) whether Government would fix minimum educational qualification for the teachers, teaching the primary, higher primary, secondary and senior secondary classes;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government would take concrete steps with the help of State Governments to ensure the presence of teachers in the classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan programme provides for the training of school teachers without pre-service qualifications, through distance mode with assistance from Indira Gandhi National Open University and other State level institutions, as per training modules approved by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE).

(b) and (c) The minimum educational qualifications for teachers are fixed by the respective State Governments. The NCTE has laid down minimum educational and professional qualifications for appointment of teachers for primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary classes, which are reviewed from time to time, which require States to bring their teacher recruitment rules in conformity. The NCTE also provides for relaxation in case special circumstances warrant such relaxation.

(d) Emphasis has been given on the role of village education committees or local bodies in monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers. Government of India has advised States to monitor teachers' attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms, to improve teacher performance and accountability.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi